

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
VICE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

BUDGET



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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FACT SHEET FOR STUDENTS
DESIRING A CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION FOR MILITARY ACADEMIES

Entrance Requirements

A candidate must be a resident of the 12th Congressional District! A candidate who is temporarily residing outside the Twelfth District because their parents are involved in government service must prove legal residence within the 12th District and show that the move outside the District is temporary. The legal residence of the father normally determines residency. If the parents are divorced, the residence of the parent with whom the applicant lives determines their legal residency.

The candidate for an academy nomination must be a citizen of the United States and be between the ages of 17 and 22. Candidates must have reached their 17th birthday, but NOT have passed their 23rd birthday on or before July 1 of the year they would enter the academy. The Merchant Marine Academy is an exception in that you must not have attained 25 years of age as of July 1 of the year of entry. The candidate must be unmarried, not pregnant, nor have a legal requirement to provide support to a dependent. Academy applicants must be physically fit, including excellent vision as well as physical dexterity and agility as demonstrated on the Physical Aptitude Examination administered by the academies.

A young man or woman with these qualifications must apply to me no later than **NOVEMBER 15TH** of the year **BEFORE** he or she desires to enter one of the academies. Screening and processing of the candidates will be completed in time to enable me to meet the deadline for submitting my congressional nominations to the academies. Should a candidate not qualify for a nomination, notification will be given early enough so they may make other educational plans.

Screening Process

To assist in evaluating and selecting nominees, I require a completed formal application, a transcript of high school work, and college if applicable, a photocopy of SAT or ACT scores (preferably SAT), a recent photograph, and at least three letters of reference from persons who can provide assessments of an applicant's character, motivation, personality traits, and over-all suitability for a military academy, a signed illegal drug statement, and an essay of 250 words based on the theme, "Why I Want to Attend a Military Academy." The deadline for receiving these items in my office is **NOVEMBER 15TH**. At that time an applicant may qualify for an interview with my Military Academy Advisory Board sometime in the month of December.

The academies do not give an academic examination. Instead, they use the results of the College Entrance Examination Board (SAT) or the American College Testing Program (ACT). Applicants must make their own arrangements to take these tests and should do so **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**. Tests may be retaken, and the best combination of scores will be used by the academies.

Selection of Candidates

The 12th District Military Academy Advisory Board will rank all candidates from the district. The most highly rated applicants will be nominated to the Academy of their choice. My part in the selection process is screening applicants and submitting lists of nominees to the academies. From these lists the academies make the actual appointments.

Vacancies

Normally, our congressional district has one place to fill in each class entering each of the three major service academies. The vacancy is created by the graduation of a cadet from our district each year. However, when a cadet leaves an academy for any reason before graduation, that creates a vacancy for the next year and changes the cycle. Therefore, it is possible that some years we may not have ANY vacancies to fill at a particular academy, or we may have more than one.

Many young people I will nominate rank sufficiently high so that the academies select them for entrance through quotas other than "congressional." These include "athletic", "additional," "Secretary of the Army," "qualified alternate," etc. Thus, more candidates now have the opportunity to enter an academy than in past years.

Merchant Marine Academy

A different nomination procedure is followed for the Merchant Marine Academy. Each Texas Member of Congress can nominate ten candidates, who then compete with all others nominated for the 15 spots Texas is allocated.

Coast Guard Academy

There are no congressional nominations or geographic quotas for the Coast Guard Academy. These appointments are made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard by means of a national competitive examination. Applications should be received by the Director of Admission, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut, 06320, before December 1 of the year prior to entrance at the academy. Their web site is www.cga.edu.

In Summary

Selection of candidates by the academies is based on academic records, class standing, SAT or ACT scores, results of the medical examination and physical aptitude tests, leadership potential, and personal interviews.

There are always numerous applications for each vacancy, and competition is heavy. However, ANY person who meets the requirements of the academies has a chance to be nominated.

My office will provide prospective candidates an application packet upon request. No one will receive an interview or qualify for nomination unless a completed application and all accompanying information is on file with my office by **NOVEMBER 15TH**.

For further information contact Nat O'Day at 817-485-0027 or 817-338-0909, or write:

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